45. (New) A cartridge type soldering iron according to claim 44, where:

the sleeve has a ring at the predetermined position along the longitudinal axis of the sleeve; and

the handle having a proximal portion and a distal portion, where the distal portion has a bore adapted to receive the ring on the sleeve so that the ring acts as a stopper to associate the handle and the sleeve at the predetermined position.

46. (New) A cartridge type soldering iron according to claim 44, where the proximal end of the sleeve is adapted to couple to a connector end having electrical contact surface areas.

A1

47. (New) A cartridge type soldering iron according to claim 44, where the connector has a receptacle opening having contact fingers adapted to electrically couple to the electrical contact surface areas of the connector end of the cartridge.

48. (New) A cartridge type soldering iron according to claim 44, further including an electrical heating element within the sleeve and electrically coupled to the electrical contact surface areas of the connector end to convert electrical energy into heat, thereby providing heat to the tip.

49. (New) A cartridge type soldering iron according to claim 44, where the handle is made of multi-layers.

50. (New) A cartridge type soldering iron according to claim 44, where the handle is made of carbon impregnated foam material for static discharging.

51. (New) A cartridge type soldering iron according to claim 44, where the handle is releasable from the sleeve.

52. (New) A cartridge type soldering iron according to claim 44, where the cross-sectional area of the sleeve is cylindrical.

53. (New) A cartridge type soldering iron according to claim 44, where the connector has a core that forms an acute angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the sleeve.

54. (New) A cartridge type soldering iron according to claim 53, where the acute angle is about 45°.

55. (New) A cartridge type soldering iron according to claim 44, where the connector has a core forming approximately 90° relative to a longitudinal axis of the sleeve.

A) 56. (New) A cartridge type soldering iron according to claim 44, including an insulator between the sleeve and the handle.

57. (New) A system for replacing a handle in a soldering iron, comprising:

a sleeve having a proximal end and a distal end along a longitudinal axis; and

a handle adapted to releasably associate with the sleeve at a predetermined position along the longitudinal axis of the sleeve between the proximal end and the distal end.

58. (New) A system according to claim 57, where:

the sleeve has a ring at the predetermined position along the longitudinal axis of the sleeve; and

the handle having a proximal portion and a distal portion, where the distal portion has a bore adapted to receive the ring on the sleeve so that the ring acts as a stopper to associate the handle and the sleeve at the predetermined position.

59. (New) A system according to claim 57, where the proximal end of the sleeve is adapted to couple to a connector end having electrical contact surface areas.

60. (New) A system according to claim 59, where the connector has a core that forms an acute angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the sleeve.

61. (New) A system according to claim 60, where the acute angle is about 45°.

62. (New) A system according to claim 59, where the connector has a core forming approximately 90° relative to a longitudinal axis of the sleeve.

63. (New) A system according to claim 57, including an insulator between the sleeve and the handle.

64. (New) A method for replacing a handle from a cartridge type soldering iron to fit a particular user, comprising:

picking a first handle having an opening through a longitudinal axis of the first handle; and

inserting a sleeve of a soldering iron having a proximal end and a distal end through the opening of the first handle, where the handle is releasably associated with the sleeve between the proximal end and the distal end of the sleeve.

65. (New) A method according to claim 64, further including:

connecting the proximal end of the sleeve to a connector to make electrical contact; and

coupling a tip to the distal end of the sleeve.

66. (New) A method according to claim 64, further comprising:

removing an existing handle on the sleeve, if any.

67. (New) A method according to claim 64, further comprising:

removing the first handle;

picking a second handle for a second user; and

inserting the sleeve through an opening within the second handle so that the second handle is between the proximal and distal ends of the sleeve.

68. (New) A method according to claim 64, further comprising:

providing an insulator between the sleeve and the first handle.

69. (New) A method according to claim 64, further comprising:

inserting the proximal end of the sleeve through a bore formed within the first handle;

stopping the first handle at a predetermined position along a longitudinal axis of the sleeve.

A1

70. (New) A cartridge type soldering iron assembly, comprising:

means for griping a soldering iron between a proximal end and a distal end of a sleeve, where the proximal end is adapted to couple to a connector and the distal end is adapted to couple to a tip.

71. (New) A cartridge type soldering iron according to claim 69, where the means for griping the soldering iron is a handle having an opening, extending axially therethrough being dimensioned to fit over a portion of the sleeve.

72. (New) A cartridge type soldering iron according to claim 69, further including:

means for insulating the means for griping from the sleeve.